

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 189467

FOLLOWING REPEAT OTTAWA 2754 ACTION SECSTATE INFO IAEA VIENNA USAEC

BUENOS AIRES BRASILIA GENEVA MOSCOW NEW DELHI BONN PARIS

27 AUG 74

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2754

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, IAEA, AR, CA

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA

REF: IAEA VIENNA 7414

1. GOC ACUTELY AWARE OF PROBLEMS OUTLINED IN REFTTEL VIS-A-VIS DANGERS OF DEBATE AT SEPTEMBER 13 IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING ON RIO TERCERO SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS. IN FACT, HURST, PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD (AECB) WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM AGENCY FOR CANADIAN SAFEGUARDS POLICY AND ACTIVITIES, DECIDED TODAY, AUG 27, TO ALTER LONGSTANDING PLANS AND ATTEND BG MEETING PERSONALLY, ON BASIS OF EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THIS EMBASSY, MISSION AND DEPARTMENT MAY CONTINUE TO COUNT ON STRONG SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FROM AECB AND EXTAFF.

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2. OFFICIAL GOC SUPPORT FOR ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AND A SO-FAR,

UNWAVERING PUBLIC FACE FOR THIS POLICY IS NOT REPEAT NOT, HOWEVER, THE FULL STORY AS PREVIOUS EMBASSY REPORTING HAS POINTED OUT. THERE ARE STRONG FORCES IN CANADA, PRINCIPALLY LOCATED IN AECL AND THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY, TRADE & COMMERCE AND ENERGY, MINES & RESOURCES WHICH ARE OPPOSED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE OFFICIAL POSITION AND BELIEVE THAT IT REPRESENTS AN ECONOMIC SELLOUT OF CANADA'S POTENTIAL IN THE NAME OF A DUBIOUS IDEAL.

3. IN VIEW OF PARA 1 AND 3 ABOVE, EMBASSY WOULD REQUEST THAT FOLLOWING POINTS BE KEPT IN MIND AND WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE WITH OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN REACHING A DECISION TO APPROACH CANADIANS WITH PROPOSAL THAT THEY TAKE STRONG POSITION WITH ARGENTINES BILATERALLY IN ATTEMPT TO AVOID DEBATE IN BG MEETING:

A. WHILE WE WOULD HOPE THAT ANY CABINET CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUE OF SAFEGUARDS WOULD END UP WITH CANADA'S ADHERING TO ITS PRESENT FIRM POLICY, GIVEN THE PERSONALITIES AND DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW, A FULL-FLEDGED CABINET HEARING OF CANADA'S SAFEGUARDS POSITION IS NOT WITHOUT ITS OWN PECULIAR HAZARDS.

B. GIVEN THE TIMESCALE OUTLINED IN REFTEL AND PROBABLE NEED FOR FULL CABINET CONSIDERATION OF AN ACTION WHICH COULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO FORFEITING RIO TECERO, IT APPEARS DOUBTFUL TO US THAT THE GOC COULD TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION ON BILATERAL APPROACH BEFORE BG MEETING, EVEN ASSUMING THAT THE CABINET CONSIDERATION RESULTED IN FULL AFFIRMATION OF BILATERAL INTERVENTION.

C. BEFORE THE USG MADE A STRONG DEMARCHE ASKING CANADA TO INTERVENE BILATERALLY TO FORESTALL THE ARGENTINES, CAREFUL WEIGHT SHOULD ALSO, IN OUR VIEW, BE GIVEN TO THE REPERCUSSIONS WHICH MIGHT ENSUE, IF, AFTER ACCEDING TO USG DESIRES, THE ARGENTINES CANCELLED CANADIAN CONTRACT AND SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING REACTOR, ESPECIALLY A HEAVY WATER, NATURAL URANIUM ONE, FROM AN ALTERNATE SOURCE. FYI: KNOWLEDGEABLE CANADIAN TECHNICAL SOURCES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT AS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT INDIA'S POTENTIAL ROLE AS VIEWS EXPRESSED IN REFTEL. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE INDIA'S LACK OF PRODUCTION CAPACITY, BUT SHARE REFTEL'S CHARACTERIZATION OF "ARGENTINES AS ENJOYING SUICIDAL COMPLEX" AND CAN FORESEE IN PURSUIT OF THAT COMPLEX A PLODDING ARGENTINE-CONFIDENTIAL

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INDIAN PROGRAM WHICH WOULD COMBINE INDIAN TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW WITH ARGENTINE PRODUCTION CAPACITIES IN A PROGRAM WITH ULTIMATE AIR OF PROVIDING BOTH COUNTRIES INDEPENDENCE FROM MAJOR OUTSIDE SUPPLIERS. END FYI.  
JOHNSON UNQTE KISSINGER

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